

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAM-01 DHA-02 ORM-02 EURE-00 AID-05 /085 W

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P R 121813Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4948

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 6724

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, PFOR, SREF, AO, PO

SUBJECT: ATMOSPHERICS OF ANGOLAN INDEPENDENCE

REFS (A) LISBON 6719 DTG 121537Z NOV 75

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(B) LISBON 6698 DTG 111650Z NOV 75

SUMMARY: ANGOLA CONTINUES TO BE A MAJOR AND DIVISIVE ISSUE ON THE PORTUGUESE POLITICAL SCENE. LENGTHY TOP-LEVEL MEETINGS HAVE THUS FAR LEFT THE RECOGNITION QUESTION UNRESOLVED. END SUMMARY.

1. CONTROVERSY CONTROVERSY AND DIVISIVENESS CONTINUE TO CHARACTERIZE THE ANGOLAN QUESTION. AFTER ITS SECOND LENGTHY MEETING, THE EXPANDED COUNCIL OF MINISTERS NOV 11 ISSUED A BLAND STATEMENT WELCOMING ANGOLAN INDEPENDENCE WHILE STUDIOUSLY IGNORING THE RECOGNITION QUESTION. THE STATEMENT EXPRESSED THE "GENERAL HOPE FOR A UNITED, INDEPENDENT, PROGRESSIVE, AND FREE ANGOLA", AND ALSO CONDEMNED "INTERFERENCE BY FOREIGN FORCES AND COUNTRIES". FURTHER MEETINGS ON ANGOLA CONTINUED THROUGHOUT NOV 12. COMMUNIST-LINING "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS", WHICH ON NOV 11 CARRIED GENERALLY ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OPPOSITION TO MPLA RECOGNITION, ON NOV 12 BANNER HEADLINED THAT GOP RECOGNITION OF MPLA WAS IMMINENT. THIS, AS INTERIOR MINISTER ALMEIDA E COSTA TOLD AMBASSADOR NOV 12, WAS UNTRUE, BUT WAS INDICATIVE OF CONTINUING PRO-MPLA SLANT OF LOCAL PRESS (REF A).

2. SCATTERED DEMONSTRATION: THE PERIOD IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING AND AFTER ANGOLAN INDEPENDENCE HAS BEEN MARKED BY SMALL (IN HUNDREDS) SCATTERED DEMONSTRATIONS. THESE HAVE BEEN ORGANIZED BY STUDENTS AND FAR LEFT GROUPS IN SUPPORT OF THE MPLA. THE COMMUNIST PARTY, THE FAR LEFT, AND VARIOUS COMMUNIST-FRONTING ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE UNITED MOVEMENT OF INTELLECTUAL WORKERS (MUTI) HAVE REAFFIRMED THEIR SUPPORT FOR MPLA.

3. ANGOLAN REFUGEE ACTIVITY: ANGOLAN REFUGEES, ANGERED BY AN MPLA FLAG HOISTED OVER THE LISBON INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCES, ATTACKED THE BUILDING AND ITS OCCUPANTS ON NOV 11, CAUSING SEVERAL INJURIES AND CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE. INTERVENTION BY MILITARY POLICE UNITS PREVENTED FURTHER DAMAGE BY REFUGEES, WHO VOWED TO RETURN AND FINISH JOB OF DESTRUCTION. AN ALMOST IDENTICAL SITUATION OCCURRED IN TORRES VEDRAS, 12 MILES NORTH OF LISBON, WHERE AN MPLA FLAG WAS FLOWN OVER THE LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL. IN THIS CASE POLICE THEMSELVES TOOK DOWN THE FLAG AFTER NUMEROUS THREATS BY ANGERED

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REFUGEES.

4. UNITA PRESS CONFERENCE: UNITA REPRESENTATIVE IN LISBON GAVE PRESS CONFERENCE NOV 11, AT WHICH HE DENOUNCED "SOCIAL-FASCIST" POLICY OF SOME PORTUGUESE OFFICIALS WHO SUPPORT MPLA. HE ALSO SAID THAT UNITA'S POLICY REMAINED IN LINE WITH ALVOR AGREEMENT; THAT UNITA'S CONCEPT OF PROGRESS WAS THE ELIMINATION OF CLASS DIVISIONS AND ANTAGONISMS; THAT

UNITA SOUGHT "PREFERENTIAL" RELATIONS WITH THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE; THAT "THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE UNDERSTAND VERY WELL THAT WHITE IS NOT SYNONYMOUS WITH EXPLOITER"; AND THAT UNITA WAS PLEDGED TO FIGHT AGAINST IMPERIALISM FROM EITHER EAST OR WEST.

5. RECALL OF TAP PLANE: NOV 12 PRESS CARRIED FURTHER DETAILS OF RETURN TO LISBON OF LUANDA-BOUND TAP PLANE (REFTEL B). GOP MINISTER OF TRANSPORT PERSONALLY RECALLED AIRCRAFT TO LISBON AFTER RECEIVING INFORMATION THAT LUANDA AIRPORT WAS BEING BOMBED. REPORT PROVED FALSE. MPLA TROOPS FIRED ARTILLERY AND MACHINE GUNS AT MIDNIGHT IN CELEBRATION OF INDEPENDENCE, REPORTEDLY HITTING A RED CROSS PLANE, WHICH, HOWEVER, WAS ABLE TO LAND. SOME OTHER PLANES WERE REPORTEDLY DIVERTED TO BRAZZAVILLE. PASSENGERS ON TAP FLIGHT LEFT LISBON AGAIN FOR LUANDA AFTERNOON NOV 11.

6. PCP CRITICIZES ANGOLA REPORTING: THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP) CELL AT EMISSORA NACIONAL ISSUED STATEMENT NOV 11 CLAIMING THAT STATION'S REPORTING OF ANGOLAN NEWS WAS SLANTED AGAINST MPLA AND IN FAVOR OF FNLA AND UNITA. STATEMENT ACCUSED STATION OF CENSORING "OFFICIAL" MPLA NEWS RELEASES AND OF OBSCURING REAL STORY OF ANGOLAN INDEPENDENCE BY AIRING REPORTS FROM FNLA AND UNITA SOURCES.
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